

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22 (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) A method for testing an inhibit function of an inhibit device coupled to a transmission line at a first node, the transmission line being coupled to a network component at a transmission port, a feedback line being coupled to the network component at a feedback port, and the feedback line being coupled to the transmission line at a second node, the method comprising:

applying a logical signal to the first node from the inhibit device, wherein the logical signal is applied by closing a switch located between the first node and a supply potential, and wherein the state of the logical signal indicates whether the inhibit function is active;

transmitting a test signal message onto the transmission line at the transmission port while the logical signal is applied to the first node; and

analyzing a feedback signal at the feedback port;

wherein the network component is a microcontroller having an interrupt function that can be controlled via the feedback port, and wherein the inhibit function is tested by analyzing whether the interrupt function is triggered when the inhibit function is active.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the network component is a microcontroller having a scannable feedback port, and wherein the inhibit function is tested by analyzing a signal at the scanned feedback port.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) A device for testing an inhibit function of a network component transmission-inhibiting device used for inhibiting a transmission line between the network component and a network by performing the inhibit function that causes a logical signal to be applied to a first node of the transmission line, the device comprising:

a feedback line coupled to a feedback port of the network component and to a second node of the transmission line;

a test-signal-message-transmitting device to transmit a test signal message from a transmission port of the network component to the network via the transmission line in response to an activated inhibit function, wherein the state of the logical signal indicates whether the inhibit function is active; and

a testing device to test the inhibit function by analyzing a signal at the feedback port during transmission of the test signal message;

wherein the transmission inhibiting device includes: a transmission-inhibit-signal generating device to generate an inhibit signal during activation of the inhibit function; and a switching device interposed between a supply potential and the first node, the switch being closed in response to the inhibit signal; and

wherein the network component is a microcontroller having an interrupt function that can be controlled via the feedback port, and wherein the inhibit function is tested by analyzing whether the interrupt function is triggered when the inhibit function is active.

28. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 27, further comprising:

a resistance provided between the first node and the transmission port.

29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim ~~[[29]]~~ 27, wherein the feedback line is coupled to the second node of the transmission line between the first node and the transmission port.

31. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim ~~[[29]]~~ 27, wherein the feedback line is connected to the second node of the transmission line between the first node and the network.

32. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim ~~[[29]]~~ 27, wherein the network component includes a Controller Area Network (CAN) controller connected via the transmission line to a CAN transmission/receiving device that is in turn connected to a CAN bus.